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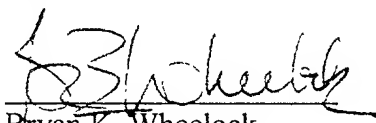
#6

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on August 29, 2002.


Bryan K. Wheelock
Reg. No. 31,441

Application No.: 10/041,699

Filing Date: January 8, 2002

Applicant: Heckman

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Title: Apparatus and Method for Showing Contour Lines in Modeling

Attorney Docket: 6210-000005

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the NOTICE OF OMITTED ITEM(S) IN A NON-PROVISIONAL APPLICATION dated July 1, 2002, and before substantive examination of this application, please amend the application as follows:

20041699-090402



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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace paragraph [0018], on page 2, with the following:

[0018] Figs. 6a through 6e are models of various land shapes that can be placed into the apparatus of this invention, to illustrate the appearance of contour lines on various shapes; and

Replace paragraph 31, on page 6, with the following:

[0031] The inner walls 204 can be made transparent, as indicated above, or the inner walls can have transparent windows aligned with the prisms 216 to permit the fanned beams to be directed into the space 208. The fanned beams create planes of light that form contour lines 222 on the surfaces in the space 208. These contour lines help viewers to visualize the contours and surfaces. The contour lines 222 also help construct models in the space 208. The outer wall 206 can have windows 218 therein, aligned with transparent portions of the inner walls, so that the model and the projected contour lines can be viewed from the sides. Index marks 220 can be provided adjacent the windows to shown the contour line spacing. A model, such as a building 224 and a contoured land surface 226, can be built into the spaced, and the laser light forms a plurality of contour lines that reveal the shape and slope of the building 224 and land surface 226. A plurality of pins 228 can be provided in spaced relation on the tops of the inner walls 204, so that strings 230 can be placed in a criss-crossing grid over space 208 to provide a frame of reference for constructing and/or interpreting the models assembled in the space 208. The apparatus 200 can be supported at a convenient height for working/viewing by legs 232.

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ATTACHMENTS SHOWING AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

[0018] Figs. [6A] 6a through [6F] 6e are models of various land shapes that can be placed into the apparatus of this invention, to illustrate the appearance of contour lines on various shapes; and

[0031] The inner walls 204 can be made transparent, as indicated above, or the inner walls can have transparent windows aligned with the prisms 216 to permit the fanned beams to be directed into the space 208. The fanned beams create planes of light that form contour lines 222 on the surfaces in the space 208. These contour lines help viewers to visualize the contours and surfaces. The contour lines 222 also help construct models in the space 208. The outer wall 206 can have windows 218 therein, aligned with transparent portions of the inner walls, so that the model and the projected contour lines can be viewed from the sides. Index marks 220 can be provided adjacent the windows to shown the contour line spacing. A model, such as a building 224 and a contoured land surface 226, can be built into the spaced, and the laser light forms a plurality of contour lines that reveal the shape and slope of the building 224 and land surface 226. A plurality of pins 228 can be provided in spaced relation on the tops of the inner walls 204, so that strings 230 can be placed in a criss-crossing grid over space 208 to provide a frame of reference for constructing and/or interpreting the models assembled in the space 208. The apparatus 200 can be supported at a convenient height for working/viewing by legs 232. [device can be]